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BOOK NOTICE

- CONNOR, S. 1994. **New England Natives.** (ISBN 0-674-61350-3, hbk.). Harvard University Press, 79 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138-9983. \$39.95. 274 pp.

This book was written to reveal “the evolving interaction between the people and the plants of New England ... by describing the wide range of uses, during different eras, to which men and women have put the various species of trees and shrubs ... in this region and describing the qualities of these plants and noting their distributions ...” Chapter 1, “A place in the forest,” is devoted largely to relationships between plants and Native Americans of yesteryear. Chapter 2, “This wooden world,” focusses on European settlers. Chapter 3, “Trees in the Marketplace and in the Garden,” considers uses and decorative value of trees. And chapter 4, “The New Yankee Forest,” discusses ecology and more uses. A prominent member of the volume’s *dramatis personae* is the Arnold Arboretum. The book is abundantly illustrated with 24 color plates of plants (mostly trees) and 194 black-and-white illustrations (mostly photographs but also reproductions of old illustrations related to trees and tree products). Well written, the book certainly shows well the “overwhelming significance of wood in the history of the Republic” and “the use of the forest as more than mere scenery.” It would be a fine addition to the list of “suggested readings” for any general botany or biology course or course on economic botany. And it is good reading for just about anybody interested in plants and people.—*John W. Thieret.*